

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for maintaining connection between a first node and a second node in a computer network comprising:
 - placing the connection between the first node and the second node in a persist state;
 - placing the second node in an inactive state; and
 - reconnecting the first node and the second node.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - repetitively polling the second node by the first node; and
 - responding by a third node acting as an agent on behalf of the second node to the polls.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - requesting by the second node that the first node keep the connection open for a predetermined amount of time; and
 - maintaining the connection for that predetermined amount of time.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising activating a connection between a first node and a fourth node during a shutdown of the first node.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network utilizes UDP protocol.

6. A method for maintaining a connection between a node and a network, comprising:

- requesting an agent to respond on behalf of the node;
- providing connection information to the agent; and
- placing the node in an inactive state.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

- reactivating the node; and
- requesting the agent to stop responding on behalf of the node.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the node is mobile.

9. A system for maintaining connection between a first node and a second node in a computer network, comprising:

- means for placing the connection between the first node and the second node in a persist state, in which the first node repetitively polls the second node;
- means for responding by third node on behalf of the second node to the polls, such that the first node maintains the connection; and
- means for placing the second node in an inactive state.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

- means for reactivating the second node; and
- means for reactivating the connection between the second node and the first node.

11. The system of claim 9, further comprising a means for creating (activating) a connection between a first node and a fourth node during a shutdown of the first node.

12. A system for maintaining connection between a node and a computer network comprising:

means for requesting an agent to respond on behalf of the node;

means for transferring connection information to the agent; and

means for placing the node in an inactive state.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

means for reactivating the node; and

means for requesting the agent to stop responding on behalf of the node.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the node is mobile.

15. An article for maintaining connection between a first node and a second node in a computer network system comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium;

means in the medium for placing the connection between the first node and the

second node in a persist state, in which the first node repetitively polls the

second node;

means in the medium for responding by third node on behalf of the second node
to the polls, such that the first node maintains the connection; and
means in the medium for placing the second node in an inactive state.

16. The article of claim 15, further comprising:

means in the medium for reactivating the second node; and
means in the medium for reactivating the connection between the second node
and the first node.

17. The article of claim 15, further comprising means in the medium for activating a
connection between the first node and a fourth node during a shutdown of the first node.

18. An article for maintaining connection between a node and a computer network
comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium;
means in the medium for requesting an agent to respond on behalf of the node;
means in the medium for providing or transferring connection information to the
agent; and
means in the medium for placing the node in an inactive state.

19. The article of claim 18, further comprising:

means in the medium for reactivating the node; and

means in the medium for requesting the agent to stop responding on behalf of the node.

20. The article of claim 18, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of: a recordable data storage medium; and a modulated carrier signal.

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